

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03816 290947Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 /062 W

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P R 290926Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0335

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3816

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG PREVENTED FROM ATTENDING PRAYER MEETING

1. ACCORDING TO USIS SOURCES, FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE KIM TAE-CHUNG AND HIS WIFE ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE THEIR HOUSE ON MORNING OF MAY 29, BUT WERE RETURNED TO DOOR BY POLICE. KIN WAS OSTENSIBLY LEAVING TO ATTEND THURSDAY PRAYER MEETING AT CHRISTIAN CENTER. MEDIA THUS FAR HAS NOT YET REPORTED OR CONFIRMED INCIDENT.

2. ON MAY 28, LOCAL MEDIA REPORTED THAT DR. EDWIN REISCHAUER HAD AGAIN INVITED THE NDP LEADER TO HARVARD AS VISITING FELLOW. KIM'S PRESS SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT KIM INDEED HOPED TO GO ABROAD BUT IT WOULD BE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF HIS HEALTH AND NOT FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITY.

3. NDP'S POLITICAL AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN YI CHUNG-CHAE TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT KIM WAS SERIOUS IN TRYING TO GO ABROAD AS HE SAW AN EFFECTIVE POLITICAL ROLE HERE AT PRESENT TIME TOO CONSTRAINED BY EMERGENCY MEASURES NO. 9 AND SITUATION IN GENERAL. ROKG IS STILL BENT ON CONTINUING KIM'S TRIAL WHERE HE HAS BEEN CHARGED, IN PART, WITH ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN PRACTICES.

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4. ON MAY 28, STARS AND STRIPES CARRIED AP ARTICLE BY JOHN RODERICK (WHICH WE ASSUME APPEARED ELSEWHERE) MENTIONING REISCHAUER INVITATION AS WELL AS KIM'S PLEA THAT U.S. SHOULD REVERSE POLICY OF PUTTING KOREAN SECURITY FIRST AND DEMOCRACY SECOND. HE SAID: "IF WE ARE TO ASK PEOPLE TO OPPOSE COMMUNISM, WE MUST GIVE THEM BREAD, DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM." NONE OF KIM'S POLITICAL COMMENT WAS PUBLISHED LOCALLY.
SNEIDER

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To: STATE
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